

Serial No.: 10/686,689
Art Unit: 9176

REMARKS

In the Office Action Summary, item 8, it is indicated that claims 1 through 10 are subject to restriction. However, claims 1 through 9 have been cancelled, and claim 10 is directed to the previously elected species. In addition, claims 18 through 27 have been canceled. Clarification is, therefore, requested.

Claim 28 has been amended to make clear that curing of call of the layers takes place after application of all of the layers. Claim 30 has been amended to correct an inadvertent redundancy therein.

All of the claims in the case, *i.e.*, claims 10 through 17 and 28-30 are now believed to be allowable for the following reasons.

Claims 10-17 and 28-30 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 56,782,176 of Greer in view of U.S. patent 6,849,333 of Schissel, *et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to the limitation in the claims in one form or another that the three coatings are applied prior to curing any of the coatings, it is believed clear that Greer does not show or remotely suggest such a clear cut limitation. Greer in his discussion of the prior art, does not indicate its applicability to his coating method. He makes no mention of a simultaneous curing of all of the coatings.

Greer states in column 4, lines 36 through 41, that in accordance with his invention, the color coating is applied over the cladding and cured. No mention is made of an outer coating in this case, hence it must be assumed that the color coating is cured prior to the application of an outer coating. In column 5, lines 42 through 48, Greer refers to the color coating being cured, being applied to the cladding, the inner, or the outer coating, with no indication of the timing of the curing. The only mention of three coating layers appears to be at column 5, lines 24-27, where Greer indicates that a tertiary coating 20 may be applied over a previously applied outer coating. If this were a wet-on-wet application, then Greer would have said that the tertiary coating was applied over a simultaneously applied outer coating.

In column 7, lines 9 through 13, lines 29 through 32, and lines 63 through 67 Greer states that the color coating is applied and cured. There is no mention of the curing of the primary coating

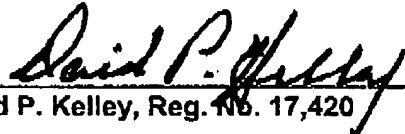
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and the secondary coating, and it is believed that to infer a simultaneous curing of all of the coatings from the Greer disclosure is not possible.

It is believed, in view of the foregoing, that the Greer reference, either singly or in combination with Schissel, *et al.*, fails to teach the limitations of the amended claims, and hence fails to anticipate these claims. Greer's failure to indicate when the color coating is cured relative to the other coatings negates any inference that he discloses or suggests simultaneous curing of all of the coatings. Likewise, there is no disclosure in Greer or Schissel, *et al.* of three different coatings having different moduli, as claimed in claim 30.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the case are clearly allowable, and favorable action in that regard is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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